

Websites for Historic Preservation and Related Topics

I. Introduction

The following handout offers some general tips about online searching and provides you with an annotated list of web sites about historic preservation and related topics. The list will hopefully point out some valuable resources that you can reference again and again, but it is not intended to be a comprehensive list of every available preservation web site.

The greatest thing about the internet is the speed at which you can find and transfer information. The danger (and often a fun part) of surfing the net is getting sidetracked from your initial query. If you do an online search for how to "preserve your roots" in order to find out how to archivally store your family history documents, you might instead learn how to supplement your income this winter by pickling parsnips. It's very helpful to know some basic search techniques so that you are sure to find the information you want in a timely manner.

Are you confused by terms and acronyms such as hyperlink, cookie, URL and HTML? Brush up on basic internet terminology or refer to one of these glossaries when you come across a new word. Both these sites have definitions that are easy to understand:

Fingertek Information Services: Glossary of Frequently Used Internet Terms:

http://www.fingertek.com/glossary.htm

Newbie U: New User University: Plain English Glossary:

http://www.easynet.net.au/mirrors/newbie-u/peg/index.html

A Search Engine is a web service for conducting a search of registered web pages for key words or phrases that you choose. Most of these search engines are very fast, but could find thousands of matches for a search query. For best results, try to be as specific as possible when choosing your key words or phrases. Search for an unusual keyword first. Pick combinations of keywords that can eliminate sites that match one but not both of the key words.

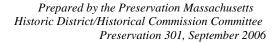
For more information about search engines and searching the internet, try one of the following

links: http://wp.netscape.com/escapes/search/tips_general.html

http://www.google.com/tour/services/query.html

Search Engines to Try:

Google http://www.google.com
Lycos http://www.lycos.com
Yahoo http://www.yahoo.com





II. List of Websites

National Organizations

American Antiquarian Society http://www.americanantiquarian.org/

American Association of Museums http://www.aam-us.org/
American Association of State and Local History http://www.aaslh.org/
American Farmland Trust http://www.farmland.org/

American Institute of Architects http://www.aia.org

American Planning Association http://www.planning.org
American Society of Civil Engineers http://www.asce.org/
American Society of Landscape Architects http://www.asla.org

Archaeological Institute of America http://www.archaeological.org/

Association for Preservation Technology Int'I http://www.apti.org/
Land Trust Alliance http://www.lta.org/
League of Historic American Theaters http://www.lhat.org

National Alliance of Preservation Commissions http://www.sed.uga.edu/pso/programs/napc/napc.htm

National Association of Olmsted Parks http://www.olmsted.org/

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers http://www.ncshpo.org/

National Parks Conservation Association http://www.npca.org/

National Trust for Historic Preservation http://www.nationaltrust.org

Northeast Regional Office http://www.nationaltrust.org/northeast/index.html

 Forum Online (for Forum members)
 Library
 https://forum.nationaltrust.org/ http://www.lib.umd.edu/NTL/ntl.html

Main Street Center http://www.mainst.org

Partners for Sacred Places http://www.sacredplaces.org

Preservation Action http://www.preservationaction.org/

Save Outdoor Sculpture (SOS!) http://americanart.si.edu/art_info/sos.cfm

Society for American Archeology http://www.saa.org/

Society for Commercial Archeology http://www.sca-roadside.org/

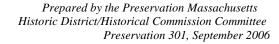
Society for Historical Archaeology http://www.sha.org/

Society for Industrial Archaeology http://www.ss.mtu.edu/IA/sia.html

Society of Architectural Historians http://www.sah.org/
Trust for Public Land http://www.tpl.org
United States Lighthouse Society http://www.uslhs.org/
Urban Land Institute http://www.uli.org/

Vernacular Architecture Forum http://www.vernaculararchitectureforum.org/

Victorian Society of America http://www.victoriansociety.org/





Federal Government

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation http://www.achp.gov
Americans with Disabilities Act http://www.ada.gov/
Department of Housing and Urban Development http://www.hud.gov
Library of Congress http://www.loc.gov/
National Archives & Records Administration http://www.nara.gov
National Endowment for the Humanities http://www.neh.gov

National Park Service

Main Site http://www.nps.gov

CRM Bulletin http://www.cr.nps.gov/crm/

Grants & Tax Credits http://www.cr.nps.gov/helpyou.htm
HABS/HAER http://www.cr.nps.gov/habshaer/
Heritage News Online newsletter http://heritagenews.cr.nps.gov/

Heritage Preservation Services http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/
 Nat'l Ctr for Pres Tech & Training (NCPTT) http://www.ncptt.nps.gov

National Register of Historic Places http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/index.htm

Preservation Briefs http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm

Secretary of the Interior's Standards

http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/standguide/overview/using_standguide.htm

Teaching with Historic Places http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/

Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation http://www.nw.org/network/home.asp

PreserveNet, legal section (links to H.P. laws) http://www.preservenet.cornell.edu/legal.html

U.S. Census Bureau http://www.census.gov/
U.S. Congress http://www.senate.gov/
http://www.house.gov/

International Organizations

DOCOMOMOhttp://www.docomomo.org/ICOMOShttp://www.icomos.org/UNESCO World Heritagehttp://whc.unesco.org/

MA State Government (home portal: www.mass.gov)

Community Development Finance Corp. http://www.mcdfc.com/
Community Economic Dev. Assistance Corp. http://www.cedac.org/

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs http://www.mass.gov/envir/

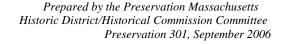
Massachusetts Archives http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcidx.htm

Massachusetts Commonwealth Museum http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mus/museum/index.htm

Mass Dept of Conservation and Recreationhttp://www.mass.gov/dcr/index.htmDivision of State Parks and Recreationhttp://www.mass.gov/dcr/forparks.htmDivision of Urban Parks and Recreationhttp://www.mass.gov/dcr/metroboston.htm

Mass Dep't of Housing and Community Dev't http://www.mass.gov/dhcd/about/default.htm

Massachusetts General Laws http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/





Massachusetts Historical Commissionhttp://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/Massachusetts State Building Codehttp://www.mass.gov/bbrs/code.htm

MA Local/Regional Organizations

Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission http://www.nps.gov/blac/

Boston Preservation Alliance http://www.bostonpreservation.org/

Boston Society of Architects http://www.architects.org/
The Bostonian Society http://www.bostonhistory.org/

Cape Cod Commission

(example of Regional Planning Commission) http://www.capecodcommission.org/

Edith Wharton Restoration, Inc. http://www.edithwharton.org/
Essex National Heritage Area http://www.essexheritage.org

Grants for Historic Preservation http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/2hispres.htm

Hancock Shaker Village http://www.hancockshakervillage.org/

Historic Boston, Inc.http://www.historicboston.org/Historic Deerfieldhttp://www.historic-deerfield.org/Historic Northamptonhttp://www.historic-northampton.org/

Historic Salem http://www.historicsalem.org/
Massachusetts Historical Society http://www.masshist.org/
New England Museum Association http://www.nemanet.org/

New England Historic & Genealogical Society http://www.newenglandancestors.org

Old Sturbridge Village http://www.osv.org/
Peabody Essex Museum http://www.pem.org/

Plimouth Plantationhttp://www.plimoth.org/index.htmlPreservation Massachusettshttp://www.preservationmass.orgPreservation Worcesterhttp://www.preservationworcester.org/Schooner Adventurehttp://www.schooner-adventure.org

Schooner Ernestina Commission http://www.ernestina.org/

Historic New England (formerly SPNEA) http://www.historicnewengland.org/index.htm

Springfield Preservation Trust http://www.oldhomesnewengland.com/Trust/index.htm

Trustees of Reservations http://www.thetrustees.org/

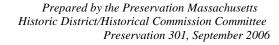
Waterfront Historic Area League (WHALE) http://www.waterfrontleague.org/

Examples of Local Historic District/Historical Commission Sites

Brookline Preservation Commission http://www.town.brookline.ma.us/Planning/Preservation.html

Cambridge Historical Commission http://www.cambridgema.gov/historic/

Lowell Historic Board http://www.historiclowell.net/





Newton Historical Commission

http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/Planning/historical.htm

Other Sites

Accessible Environments

Association for Gravestone Studies

Barn Again!

Center for Understanding the Built Environment

Cyburbia, urban planning portal

Great Buildings

Lighthouse Preservation Society

Massachusetts Cultural Council

Old House Journal Online

Planning Commissioners Journal

PreserveNet (general HP info)

Preservation Directory

PreservationWeb

Sprawl Watch Clearinghouse

Traditional Building

UNH, Historic USGS Quad Maps of MA

VT Heritage Network, HistPres Bibilography

World of Old Houses

http://www.adaptenv.org/

http://www.gravestonestudies.org/

http://www.agriculture.com/barnagain/

http://www.cubekc.org/

http://www.cyburbia.org/

http://www.greatbuildings.com/gbc.html

http://www.maine.com/lights/lps.htm

http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/

http://www.oldhousejournal.com/index.shtml

http://www.plannersweb.com/

http://www.preservenet.cornell.edu

http://www.preservationdirectory.com

http://www.preservationweb.com/

http://www.sprawlwatch.org/

http://www.traditional-building.com/

http://docs.unh.edu/towns/MassachusettsTownList.htm

http://www.uvm.edu/~vhnet/hpres/hpr4.html

http://www.oldhouses.com.au/

Listserves

MassHistPres Listserve

The Massachusetts Historical Commission, with the help of UMass-Boston, has developed a free email list for historic preservation in Massachusetts. Over 600 people across the state are subscribers. It is an incredible resource for the sharing of information, ideas, questions and experiences related to historic preservation in Massachusetts. If you are interested in joining this list, you can subscribe by visiting: http://mailman.cs.umb.edu/mailman/listinfo/masshistpres

Forum-L Listserve

Membership only national listserve for preservation issues. Join by joining the National Trust for Historic Preservation's professional Historic Preservation Forum: https://forum.nationaltrust.org/ They'll send you a password and username that you can then use to log on and sign up to join the Forum-L listserve.

HUDUser Listserve

Sign up online or just view postings at http://www.huduser.org/emaillists/pdremail.html

This resource list was originally compiled for the 1999 Massachusetts Historic Preservation Conference by Jeffrey Harris and Sarah Burks. The list has been updated and expanded and all websites have been checked to be current. --S. Burks, Preservation Massachusetts HD/HC Committee. September 2006